

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 9-18 are pending. Claims 9 and 11 are rejected. Claims 10 and 12-18 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating those allowable claims.

Claims 9, 11-14, and 16-18 are amended to correct informalities.

Drawings

Responsive to the objections to FIG. 1, applicant has amended FIG. 1 to add the legend "Prior Art," replace a reference numeral 13 referring to the op-amp on the bottom of FIG. 1 with a reference numeral 12, use the reference numeral 13 to refer to the input line to the non-inverting input of an op-amp 11, and refer to the non-inverting input of the op-amp 12 (the bottom op-amp) as "RIGHT CHANNEL INPUT."

Responsive to the objections to FIG. 2, applicant has amended FIG. 2 to add the legend "Prior Art" and indicate that the unit of the vertical axis as "dB."

Applicant submits that the objections to FIGs. 1 and 2 have been overcome in light of the above amendments.

Claim Objections

Responsive to the objections, applicant has amended claims 9, 11-14, and 16-18 to replace the term "impedance" with "impedance network," as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the suggestion.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Responsive to the rejection of claims 9 and 11 as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,692,050 ("Hawks"), applicant respectfully submits that Hawks does not anticipate

these two claims because Hawks in FIG. 18 does not disclose or suggest a stereophonic expansion circuit including a second impedance network having a first terminal coupled to a second input of a first amplifier and a second terminal to a first switch, wherein when the first switch is in a close position, the second impedance network is coupled to ground, and a matrixing circuit for producing left and right audio signals from a signal at the output of the first amplifier and the received left and right audio difference signal, recited in claim 9, as discussed below.

Amended independent claim 9 recites a stereophonic expansion circuit comprising a first amplifier having an output, a first input for receiving a left and right audio sum signal, and a second input, wherein a first impedance network couples the output to the second input of the first amplifier; a second impedance network having a first terminal coupled to the second input of the first amplifier and a second terminal to a first switch, wherein when the first switch is in a close position, the second impedance network is coupled to ground, reducing a gain of the amplifier according to a frequency response of the first and second impedances; an input for receiving a left and right audio difference signal; and a matrixing circuit for producing left and right audio signals from a signal at the output of the amplifier and the received left and right audio difference signal.

By contrast, Hawks does not disclose or suggest that the stereo/mono enhancement system 300a shown in FIG. 18 includes a matrixing circuit for producing left and right audio signals from a signal at the output of the op-amp 312 (relied upon as the amplifier) and a received left and right audio difference signal (L-R), as alleged. In fact, the output left signal L' of the system is produced directly at the output of the op-amp 312. See FIG. 18. No additional circuit is needed for producing the output left

signal L', let along a matrixing circuit producing the left output signal L' from the output signal of the op-amp 312 and an L-R signal.

The Office Action relies upon op-amp 312 and op-amp 313 as part of the matrixing circuit. However, since the op-amp 312 has already been interpreted as the first amplifier, it should not be also interpreted as part of the matrixing circuit because the first amplifier and the matrixing circuit are recited as two different elements in claim 9.

Similarly, applicant disagrees that SW4 should be interpreted as both the second impedance network and the first switch because the switch and the second impedance network are recited as two different elements in claim 9.

In light of the fact that Hawks does not disclose or suggest a stereophonic expansion circuit including a second impedance network having a first terminal coupled to a second input of a first amplifier and a second terminal to a first switch, wherein when the first switch is in a close position, the second impedance network is coupled to ground, and a matrixing circuit for producing left and right audio signals from a signal at the output of the first amplifier and the received left and right audio difference signal, as recited in claim 9, applicant submits that claim 9 is patentable over Hawks.

Applicant submits that claim 11 is patentable over Hawks for its dependence from claim 9.

Conclusion

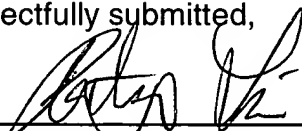
Having fully addressed the Examiner's objections and rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken,

the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Fee

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

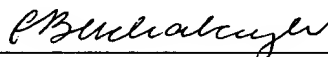

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to [Mail Stop AF], Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

2/16/05
Date



Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGs. 1 and 2.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets 1-5